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Inside Journalism

Columbia College Chicago

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NOVEMBER

INSIDE

1993

JOURNALISM

A Newsletter Published by the Journalism Department of Columbia College

JOURNALISM DEPARTMENT GROWS AND GROWS

Columbia expands each year, and the Journalism department grows by leaps and bounds. This fall, the department has nearly 600 declared majors, double the figure four years ago.

Not only are more students enrolling as journalism majors, but more are finishing the four-year course of study. The number of seniors has almost doubled since 1989, with over 80 seniors gearing for graduation. At the same time, more freshmen and transfer students have chosen Columbia.

What all this points to is that Columbia has made a name for itself on the journalism front. With award-winning publications like the **Chicago Arts and Communication** magazine and the revitalized **Chronicle**, students and media professionals are noticing Columbia's journalism program. The school's reputation as an arts school has widened to include the finer arts of the media.

One division of our department that has literally boomed in recent years is the broadcast concentration. This area has shot-up from a handful of students several years ago to 210, over one-third of the department.

Another statistic that should be

obvious to any male students is the heavy ratio of female to male students. Women make up 70 percent of journalism majors. Minority students are nearly in the majority (49.5%) and have a high percentage in the senior class.

Perhaps of most importance, class size has remained low, an average of 19, while the department continues to grow, maintaining the department's personal and interactive nature.

--Andrew Peters

INTERNSHIPS

A Message from the Chairman

Journalism students! As a group, you have grown remarkably in size and in quality. (Read above for details.) But the one area in which most of you are lagging is internships.

We have more than a hundred j-students eligible for internships, and only 11 have taken advantage during the fall semester.

Those of you who do not enroll for an internship are missing one of the most important experiences available to you. We pride ourselves on being a hands-on school, but the ultimate hands-on experience is the one in the field, where you actually work for a media entity. You learn what it's really like, you meet people who can help you in your career, and if you're good (and lucky) you may be asked to stay for a job after you graduate.

Sometimes internships pay, sometimes they don't. If the mon-

HOT MAGAZINE INTERNSHIPS

Juniors, this is the opportunity you have been waiting for. The American Society of Magazine Editors is sponsoring the 1994 magazine internship program for qualified students to work in the editorial office of a national magazine next summer.

"This is the most important magazine internship," said Magazine Program Director Don Gold. "The potential rewards are enormous." The program, started in 1967, has helped more than 250 of the 1,136 participating students find editorial jobs at magazines and elsewhere in journalism.

Applicants must finish their junior year in June, 1994 and be heading for a full senior year that fall. They must be motivated and have a GPA of 3.5 or better.

Most internships are in New York and run May 31 to August 5, 1994. Interns will receive a minimum weekly \$275 stipend and dormitory accommodations will be available.

Applications must be postmarked by December 15 and are available in the j-department office. J-department juniors should not pass this up.

--Andrew Peters



Job Search

By Paula Eubanks

Talk. Listen.
Read. Act.

A good job search can be just that simple. Below are some resources readily available to assist you, whether you are in the throes of a job search or are casually considering what you'd like to do with your journalism education.

Events: Attending career-related events such as career days, panel discussions or job fairs sponsored by Columbia's Career Planning & Placement Office (CP&P), academic departments, or student clubs are an easy way to meet industry professionals and to hear what it takes to build a career. Professional associations also sponsor career development events and welcome students or job seekers. Event announcements are always posted in CP&P's Career Resource Center in Suite 300 of the Wabash Building. Drop by about twice a month to keep up-dated.

Workshops: Learn the basics of job searching at free, half-hour workshops held in the afternoon and evening throughout the semester by CP&P. Each workshop focuses on a different aspect of the job search process: Job Research, Resume and Cover Letter Writing, Interviewing Techniques, and Freelancing. Each workshop is offered about eight times during the semester, and a schedule is available from CP&P. They're a great way to jump-start a job search.

Posted Job Leads: Peruse the posted job leads in CP&P's Career Resource Center to find work opportunities, spark ideas of career options, or simply learn what the industry's employers say they want from a reporter, editor,

writer, etc. Keep an eye peeled for chances to amass clips or other work samples! CP&P receives new job leads each day, so check the boards about once a week to find fresh leads.

Publications: Be well-read. Books such as *TV News: Building A Career in Broadcast Journalism* by Ray White provide excellent information about how to go about finding gainful employment, if not your dream job. Such books are called "career introduction books." Also, reading trade magazines and newsletters, industry directories, job search and career development handbooks, career-related videotapes, and business press databases is a fast way to get "backgrounded." You'll find some of these resources in CP&P's Career Resource Center, in the college's library and academic department offices, and in the career resource collection at the Chicago Public Library's main library.

Career Advisor: Piece these resources together in a way that suits you with help from a CP&P career advisor. My drop-in hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Thursdays. Or call for an appointment (312/663-1600, Ext. 284).

Note: The Career Planning & Placement Office hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and during semester breaks. We're located in Suite 300 of the Wabash Building.

Paula Eubanks,
Career Advisor

ey's important, hold out for a paying internship (in the print world, many exist). Or ask for a stipend from one of the scholarship funds that are available.

In order to qualify for an internship, you need to have 60 credits with a 3.0 Grade Point Average. If your grades are a bit lag-gard, but you think you can hack it anyway, come in and convince us. We don't bite.

Carolyn Hulse is the coordinator for the j-department, and she has about five times as many internships listed on her bulletin board as she has students applying for them. Come. Take a look. If you're especially interested in magazines or broadcast, have a chat with Don Gold or Rose Economou first.

Most important, bear in mind that internships can begin at any time -- including now.

--Nat Lehrman

GETTING A JOB

You must have heard that getting a job in journalism can be a cat-clawing experience. But based on the success of Columbia graduates, you'll find that hard work combined with the hands-on education offered by our department yields results.

Cases in point: over 80 j-graduates have landed journalism positions in the last several years--and not the down-and-dirty, nowhere kind. Just read some random selections from the ever-growing list.

Penny Matek, spokesperson, Cook County Sheriff, Chicago

Rachel Bittner, anchor/reporter, WIZM-AM, LaCrosse, WI

Shelley Acoca, assistant city editor, *Lafayette Journal & Courier*, Lafayette, Indiana

Mary Frances Gleason, assistant sports editor, *Syracuse Herald Journal*, Syracuse, N.Y.

Mitchell Hurst, communications coordinator, Donors Forum of Chicago

Jacqui Podzius, reporter, Associated Press, Indianapolis

Tim Brown, Director of PR, Southwest Suburban Association of Realtors, Oak Lawn

Sherri Kirk, managing editor, **Star Sentinel**, Melrose Park

Cassandra Sanders, production assistant/associate producer, ChicagoLand TV News, Oak Brook

Annette Flournoy, reporter, WBEZ-FM, Chicago

Kathy Gurchiek, associate metro editor, Savannah, Georgia, **Morning News**

Robin Orvino, coordinator/marketing and international corporate communications, Altheimer & Gray, attorneys, Chicago

Judging from the list, there are jobs out there for j-students. But you've got to work for them. Keep an eye on **Inside Journalism** for tips on studies, networking, internships, and all the combinations you have to put together to be a success in the media.

--Lynnette Richardson

J-DEPARTMENT MOVES

In case you haven't noticed, the journalism department has moved from the eighth floor of the Wabash building to its new home on the thirteenth floor of the 624 S. Michigan building, otherwise known as the Torco building.

"The department had to be moved because we needed more classroom space," says Executive Vice President-Provost Bert Gall. "There wasn't enough space on the eighth floor of the Wabash building to provide classrooms and computer labs for a growing number of j-students."

The new location of the j-department does offer more space. There are three computer labs compared to only two in the Wabash building. The computer lab (room 1303), open to all j-students with Columbia College I.D. cards, is open Wednesday, Thursday, Friday from 2:00-4:30. It's

closed on Monday and Tuesday.

Unfortunately, the **Columbia Chronicle** could not move to the new building. "There just wasn't enough room for the **Chronicle**," says Gall.

"I understand the problem, but regret nonetheless that the **Chronicle** did not move with us," says j-department chairman Nat Lehrman. "The **Chronicle** writers and editors are among our best students, and I miss having daily contact with them."

The department still offers everything that it did in the Wabash building...and more. In the new j-suite (room 1300), a private room is available for free tutoring. There is also a bulletin board in the department that lists internships, stringer work, part-time jobs, scholarships, competitions, summer programs, graduate studies and job skills.

Other good reasons to visit the new j-department: The spectacular view overlooking the park and lake through Lehrman's office window and the cigarette spot-free carpets.

--Frances Palladino

KIM'S JUST TRUCKIN' ALONG

After just graduating in January, former **Inside Journalism** editor Kim Ehrenhaft has recently been promoted to Associate Editor at Kona Communications Inc., a Deerfield company that prints two trade journals about the trucking industry.

While attending Columbia College as a magazine j-major, Ehrenhaft got her start at Kona through a paid internship.

After interning for a year-and-a-half and successfully getting her foot in the door, she was offered a job at Kona when she graduated, as Editorial Assistant.

Ehrenhaft writes 2000 word stories every month for Kona, one for each of the trade journals: **Truck Parts & Services** and **Success-**

ful Dealer. Her job duties at Kona encompass everything from editing to being in charge of complimentary circulation. Because Kona is a small company, Ehrenhaft says she works on all sorts of projects.

"I learn something new about everything," says Ehrenhaft. "Sometimes it's interesting, sometimes it's not."

Ehrenhaft also gets to travel for her job. She recently attended press conferences in Indianapolis and Louisville. She says she enjoys the press conferences but they can be tiring because she has to "talk, smile and act happy."

Although she has worked for Kona since May 1991, Ehrenhaft does not consider herself an expert on trucks. She can't even drive one, she says. But still she is able to use her journalism skills to enhance Kona's publications. So, for all you j-students considering trade publications, don't be scared off because you don't know much about a particular trade. You may be passing up a great opportunity to learn.

--Tom Shea

FIVE JOIN FACULTY

Columbia's j-department welcomes five new part-time instructors to its staff: Jeff Davis, Cynthia Linton, Tracy Robinson, Joe Winski and Deborah Coney.

Jeff Davis, who formerly taught in Columbia's television department, now teaches Introduction to Mass Media on Monday mornings and Thursday evenings.

He graduated from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism, worked for years at NBC and is a full-time writer who is currently doing a novel called *Foul Fair*. The book deals with a conspiracy to fix the final four in college basketball.

Davis says he teaches because he wants to share what he has learned. "We are as good as what comes after us," he says. "We can't

live only for ourselves. "Davis believes that a good story consist of many things: conflict, the five w's and h, and, most importantly, human interest. His advice to journalism students is to be persistent, believe in yourselves and don't take "no" for an answer.

Cynthia Linton teaches Copy Editing II on Tuesday afternoons. She also teaches in the graduate program at Medill. Linton, who has a B.A. in Psychology from Boston University, worked at the Lerner newspapers for 20 years. She was a reporter at Lerner for the first 15 years and for the last five, she was Executive Editor, until the paper went out of business.

Linton teaches because she wants to share what she has learned. "I have learned a lot by trial and error," she says. "I would like to help students with shortcuts on ways to write better stories." The most common mistakes she finds in student and professional writing are style mistakes and misuse of commas.

Linton says she likes teaching at Columbia because of the diversity of students and because of their eagerness to learn and work hard. Linton's advice to j-students is to be very competitive, read constantly and look at how news is written. "Work hard, hard, hard," she says.

Tracy Robinson teaches News Reporting I on Tuesday mornings.

She received her degree in journalism from Medill and has taught basic writing skills there. Tracy Robinson has worked as a reporter for the **Sun-Times** and now works full time as Campaign Press Secretary for Commissioner Joseph Gardner of the Metropolitan Chicago Water Reclamation District.

Robinson suggests that students should explore internships "as quickly as they can in order to establish contacts."

Joe Winski teaches Feature Writing on Monday nights. Winski

has a B.A. in English and Administration from Ohio State University and a Masters degree in Communication from the University of Illinois. Until recently, he worked at Crain Communications.

Winski says he went into journalism because he always had a desire to write. He feels that the key to a good feature is clear and compelling writing about a subject that is interesting or that the writer can make interesting.

Winski's advice to j-students is to accumulate as many clips as they can in any publication.

Deborah Coney teaches typing on Thursday evenings. She is filling in for Dorothy Horton-Jackson, who is on maternity leave. Coney also works full-time as Administrative Assistant in the Dean's office at Columbia.

Coney has a B.A. in Business Education from Mississippi University for women at Columbus, Mississippi. She can type 100 wpm, but she only requires that her students type between 35-40 wpm in order to pass.

"Students should learn how to type because it will help them get better jobs," she says. Coney will teach a course in stenography next semester, with the intention of teaching neophyte reporters how to better take notes.

--Frances Palladino

GET YOUR TUTORING NOW, WHILE IT'S FRESH

The j-tutoring office is empty except for instructor Jim Sulski who sits for hours waiting for students to visit. But few come.

Apparently, that is traditional around this time of year. As the semester progresses and students' anxieties set in, the office inevitably gets busier. Sulski encourages students not to wait till then. They should take advantage of his services during this lull.

This is Sulski's first semester as the j-department tutor. He says he

is there to offer students help with anything from word processing to understanding the inverted pyramid style to simply giving advice and encouragement. He says that students should not be ashamed to come for help.

"There is a sense that tutoring is for dumb students," says Sulski, "but that's not true. It's good for everyone."

Sulski, who is a freelance writer for the **Chicago Tribune**, admits that most writers, including himself, greatly benefit from a good editor or even just a "second pair of eyes."

"There are days I get the story done but not the lead," says Sulski. "I will call the editor and tell him I need help."

Having attended Columbia College as a j-major from 1979-84, Sulski says he can not only offer his technical skills in journalism but also his experience as a former student.

Tutoring hours are: 1-4 on Mondays and 2-5:30 on Thursdays.

--Tom Shea

INSIDE JOURNALISM
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